Application No.: 10/726,669

Reply to the Office Action dated December 2, 2004:

REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Dote for allowing Claims 1, 2, 10-22, 25, 26 and 29 and for indicating allowability of Claims 3-9, 23, 24, 27 and 28 if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application, as amended, in view of the following remarks.

The rejection of Claims 3-9, 23, 24, 27 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is obviated by the amendment of these Claims.

The objection to the disclosure is obviated by the amendment of the disclosure.

This application presents allowable subject matter, and the Examiner is kindly requested to pass it to issue. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the claims or otherwise wish to discuss this case, he is kindly invited to contact Applicants' below-signed representative, who would be happy to provide any assistance deemed necessary in speeding this application to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

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